

“Date”

Mr. Ryan J. Aucoin  
3217 Coulon Dr.  
Meraux, Louisiana 70075

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-737

Dear Mr. Aucoin:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its October 8, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion relative to whether you would be prohibited from remaining employed for JCFA East and West Charter Schools once you marry Millie M. Harris, Executive Director of JCFA Charter Management Organization.

### FACTS PROVIDED

You provided that you became employed by JCFA East Charter School on July 29, 2014 as the Facility and Risk Coordinator. You stated that your position expanded to the JCFA West campus and that in December 2017 your position became a part-time position and has remained as such to the present day. You stated that you are supervised by Anne Katherine Lene, the Chief Academic Officer of JCFA East. You stated that you intend to marry Millie M. Harris on October 9, 2021 and that Ms. Harris is the Executive Director of JCFA Charter Management Organization, having been employed as such since September 2011.

### LAW

La. R.S. 42:1119B(1) provides that no member of the immediate family of a member of a governing authority or the chief executive of a governmental entity shall be employed by the governmental entity.

La. R.S. 42:1119C(2) provides that the provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the continued employment of any public employee nor shall it be construed to hinder, alter, or in any way affect normal promotional advancements for such public employee where a member of public employees' immediate family becomes the agency head of such public employee's agency, provided that such public employee has been employed in the agency for a period of at least one year prior to the member of the public employee's immediate family becoming the agency head.

### CONCLUSION

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) would not prohibit you from remaining employed as the Facility and Risk Coordinator for the East and West campuses of JCFA. Because you have been employed by JCFA for at least one year prior to your becoming the immediate family member of Millie M. Harris, the provisions of the Ethics Code would not prohibit your continued employment with JCFA.

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The Board further concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the Ethics Code would prohibit Millie M. Harris from participating in any transactions in which you have a substantial economic interest. La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) provides that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to her actual knowledge, any member of her immediate family has a substantial economic interest and La. R.S. 42:1112D provides that no appointed member of any board or commission, except as provided in R.S. 42:1120.4, shall participate or be interested in any transaction involving the agency when a violation of this Part would result.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

Gregory L. Thibodeaux  
For the Board

**DISCLAIMER**  
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The analysis and conclusions herein are preliminary and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this draft opinion is presented. No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are preliminary and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this draft opinion is presented.